

Edinburgh International Festival 2020 – it's all online

To keep you entertained the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) has published a grand selection of videos online on their YouTube channel.

Some of these videos were filmed just recently ensuring employment for over 500 people in the creative industries, something the Festival Director is most pleased about.

Fergus Linehan, Festival Director at Edinburgh International Festival said: "For most of us, the past few months have been a time spent at home. For some, a time spent with family and for many a time overcoming adversity. For artists, home can mean different things; there are the buildings where they live and the relatives and friends they love. But beyond these, there is another home and another family at the centre of their creative lives. This home is the concert platform, the proscenium arch and the rehearsal room. This family is their fellow actors, musicians or dancers as well as directors, choreographers, conductors, designers, technicians and stage managers. COVID-19 has not dimmed the creativity of our artists, but it has physically isolated them from each other.

"For the first time since lockdown, orchestras, ballet companies, traditional musicians, theatre ensembles and designers have come together to perform in and light up the venues they love. This has been achieved with great care to

ensure the safety of all involved. It represents a cautious but essential step towards the re-emergence of the performing arts in our country.

“The programme of events that we announce today is not so much a curated season as a reunion – it is time for our artists to make theatre together, to play music together, to sing together, to dance together and to light up the skies together.

“We are working hard to engage and employ artists and freelance workers in the festival ecosystem and to help companies take the first steps in performing together in venues. Through these projects, we are providing employment for over 500 Scottish artists, creatives and technical staff.

“To all who have participated and all those who have supported them, thank you.”



Scottish Ballet © Mihaela Bodlovic. Rishan Benjamin on set for Frontiers, part of Scottish Ballet’s Digital Season

Cllr Donald Wilson, Convener of Culture and Communities said: “Since the very beginning our festivals have fought against all odds – acting as a beacon of hope to unite people from all over Europe after the Second World War. Over the last 73 years they have turned a small city like Edinburgh into the world’s biggest stage and, while we have to do things very differently this year, they will continue to light up our City and our screens.

“The festival organisers have very creatively designed a programme which will bring audiences from across the world together to enjoy a one-of-a-kind celebration of culture, proving that Edinburgh’s festival spirit shines on. Of course, it will be tempting to watch displays live and in person, so we’ll be encouraging everyone to stay indoors or at a safe distance. This August, the best festival views are to be found at home.

Some of the artists you may be aware of already, and some will be new.

Go and explore the entire free library of entertainment [here](#)